Last amended: 12.10.2026

APPLICATION FOR A BUSINESS VISA

Subject to subsection (1A)* of the Immigration Act, as amended (see note below), a business visa may be issued by the Director-General to a foreigner intending to establish or invest in, or who has established or invested in a business in the Republic of South Africa in which he or she may be employed, and an appropriate visa for the duration of the business visa to the members of such foreigner's immediate family: Provided that –

a) such foreigner invests the prescribed financial or capital contribution in such business;
b) the capital contribution forms part of the intended book value of such business; and
c) such foreigner has undertaken to –
   i. comply with any relevant registration requirement set out in any law administered by the South African Revenue Service; and
   ii. employ the prescribed percentage or number of South African citizens or permanent residents within a period of 12 months from the date of issue of the visa.

PLEASE PRINT OUT THIS CHECKLIST AND SUBMIT IT WITH THE COMPLETE VISA APPLICATION!

The complete visa application must be submitted **in person** to the office of application (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Business_hours.doc).

	The following documentation must be submitted by each applicant. Please keep / submit the documentation in the order as listed below.	**Mission**
1	**Original machine-readable passport** • Validity of no less than thirty (30) days after the foreigner's intended departure from the Republic of South Africa. • Passports must have at least two (2) blank pages for endorsements. • Non-machine readable / handwritten passports are not accepted / recognised. • **Original** second passport, if the applicant holds one, shall also be presented. • In the case of visa applicants who are not German citizens, proof of long-term residence (*Aufenthaltstitel*) in Germany must be provided in the form of: a) the residence permit or **original** *Chipkarte* (and a photocopy); or b) in the case of EU citizens, the **original** '*Anmeldebescheinigung'* (and a photocopy).	☐ ☐ ☐
2	**Passport photocopies** • Of the passport page with the applicant's personal data / photograph. • Of all previous visas for the Republic of South Africa in the passport. • Of second passport, if the applicant holds another passport.	☐
3	**One fully completed application form DHA-1738** • Must be downloaded and printed: http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/DHA-1738.pdf. • All questions must be answered in English – questions that don't apply may be completed with 'n/a'. • A 'fingerprint form' is not required to be completed by applicants. • Applicants must provide an email address under Part 4 (may be written below telephone number). • 'Contact person' under Part 4 refers to someone in Germany. • 'Proposed date and place of departure for the Republic' under Part 5 means the date and place of departure from Germany. • Full details of the intended duration of stay in, and intended date of departure from the Republic of South Africa must be completed under Part 5. • The question, 'Have you ever been refused entry into or deported from the Republic' under Part 7 must be completed with either 'yes' or 'no', and details provided, if the answer is 'yes'.	☐

4	**One (1) biometric photograph** • Should be a recent photograph, not older than 6 months. • Photographs must be taken and printed professionally – photographs printed at home would be rejected.	☐
5	**An application for a business visa by a foreigner who intends to establish a business or invest in a business that is not yet established in the Republic of South Africa, shall be accompanied by** – a) a certificate or a factual finding report issued by a chartered accountant registered with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, a professional accountant registered with the South African Institute of Professional Accountants or a business accountant registered with the South African Institute for Business Accountants to the effect that – i. at least R5 000 000,00 in cash, originating from outside the Republic, is available to be invested in the business; or ii. at least R5 000 000,00 in cash and a capital contribution (must be new machinery and / or equipment), originating from outside the Republic, is available to be invested in the business; (See note below in respect of the reduction or waiver of the capitalisation requirements) b) an undertaking by the applicant that at least 60% of the total staff complement to be employed in the operations of the business shall be South African citizens or permanent residents employed permanently in various positions: Provided that proof of compliance with this undertaking shall be submitted within 12 months of issuance of the visa; c) an undertaking to register with the – i. South African Revenue Service; ii. Unemployment Insurance Fund; iii. Compensation Fund for Occupational Injuries and Diseases; iv. Companies and Intellectual Properties Commission (CIPC), where legally required; and v. relevant professional body, board or council recognised by SAQA in terms of section 13(1)(i) of the National Qualifications Framework Act, where applicable, Provided that upon registration, all certificates shall be submitted to the Director-General; and d) a letter of recommendation from the Department of Trade and Industry regarding – i. the feasibility of the business; and ii. the contribution to the national interest of the Republic of South Africa. (Applicants should contact the Department of Trade and Industry directly to enquire about obtaining such recommendation: vrecom@thedti.gov.za.)	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

6	**An application for a business visa by a foreigner who has established a business or invested in an existing business in the Republic of South Africa, shall be accompanied by –** a) a certificate or a factual finding report issued by a chartered accountant registered with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, a professional accountant registered with the South African Institute of Professional Accountants or a business accountant registered with the South African Institute for Business Accountants to the effect that – i. at least R5 000 000,00 in cash, originating from outside the Republic, is available to be invested or already invested in the business; or ii. at least R5 000 000,00 in cash and a capital contribution (must be new machinery and / or equipment), originating from outside the Republic, is available to be invested in or already invested in the business; (See note below in respect of the reduction or waiver of the capitalisation requirements) b) proof that at least 60% of the total staff complement employed in the operations of the business shall be South African citizens or permanent residents employed permanently in various positions; c) proof of registration with the – i. South African Revenue Service; ii. Unemployment Insurance Fund; iii. Compensation Fund for Occupational Injuries and Diseases; iv. Companies and Intellectual Properties Commission (CIPC), where legally required; and v. relevant professional body, board or council recognised by SAQA in terms of section 13(1)(i) of the National Qualifications Framework Act, where applicable; d) a letter of recommendation from the Department of Trade and Industry regarding – i. the feasibility of the business; and ii. the contribution to the national interest of the Republic of South Africa; (Applicants should contact the Department of Trade and Industry directly to enquire about obtaining such recommendation: vrecom@thedti.gov.za.)	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
7	**A foreigner who has established a business or has invested in an existing business shall, in addition, submit –** a) financial statements in respect of the preceding financial year; and b) proof of investment.	☐ ☐
8	**An <u>original</u> police clearance certificate** • Must be issued by the police or security authority in each country where the applicant, after attaining the age of 18 years, resided for 12 months or longer during the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the visa application, in respect of criminal records or the character of that applicant. • Shall not be older than six months at the time of its submission. • In respect of the police clearance certificate for Germany, the 'normal' certificate regarding the entries over the last 5 years, which is sent to the applicant's private address, may be submitted. If there are no entries (*Keine Eintragung*) on a police clearance certificate for Germany, it does not have to be translated into English.	☐

9	**In respect of dependent children accompanying the applicant or joining the applicant in the Republic of South Africa**, proof of parental responsibilities and rights or written consent in the form of an affidavit from the other parent or legal guardian, as the case may be (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Parental_consent_letter.doc); **certified copies** of the parents' / legal guardians' passports or identity documents (*Ausweis*) must also be attached.	☐
10	**In respect of a spouse accompanying the applicant or joining the applicant in the Republic of South Africa, a copy of a marriage certificate or proof of a permanent homosexual or heterosexual relationship (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Permanent_spousal_relationship.doc)** • If a marriage certificate is not in English, it must be translated and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator; alternatively, applicants who got married in Germany may submit an 'international marriage certificate'.	☐
11	**A yellow fever vaccination certificate** • Only required, if the foreigner travelled or intends travelling from or transiting through a yellow fever endemic area to the Republic of South Africa. • The certificate shall not be required where that person travelled or intends travelling in direct transit through such an area. (See also http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Yellow_fever.doc)	☐
12	**Proof of payment of the applicable fee** • Payment of the application fee must be made through an electronic bank transfer (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Application_fee.doc). • A copy of the transfer / deposit slip must be submitted as proof of payment. • Payment must be made at least five working (5) days before submitting the application. • Payment of the application fee may not be made in cash at the Embassy in Berlin and Consulate-General in Munich!	☐
13	**An A4-size envelope franked with the ExpressEasy DHL-online label (National – 0,5kg)** • The franked envelope is required to return the applicant's passport – applicants may not collect passports in person after the application has been adjudicated. • The **ExpressEasy** DHL-online label may be purchased and completed online (see https://www.dhl.de/de/privatkunden/pakete-versenden/deutschlandweit-versenden/express-easy.html). Click the '**Expressversand**' tab to access the **ExpressEasy** DHL-online label • Applicants shall print their **ExpressEasy** franked DHL-online label, affix / glue it securely to an A4-size envelope and are advised to keep a record of the tracking number. • Only one (1) franked envelope may be submitted in the case of a couple or a family.	☐

FOR OFFICIAL USE (Not to be completed by the applicant)	
Applicant's name: ……..……..	
Application taken in to be processed	☐
Application not taken in due to incompleteness	☐
(**Please send this checklist, if the application shall be re-submitted**)	
Date:	Ref.:

Please note:

- ** In terms of subsection (1A) of the Immigration Act, as amended, no business visa may be issued or renewed in respect of the following business undertaking:*
  - *a) Businesses that import second hand motor vehicles into the Republic of South Africa for the purpose of exporting to other markets outside the Republic of South Africa;*
  - *b) The exotic entertainment industry;*
  - *c) Security Industry.*

- *The applicant must, within 12 months of the visa being issued, submit to the Director-General a letter from the Department of Labour confirming that a report regarding the undertaking referred to in section 15(1)(c)(ii) of the Act that 60% of the staff complement employed in the operations of the business are South African citizens or permanent residents who are employed permanently in various positions.*

- *A business visa may be issued for a period not exceeding three years at a time.*

- *The holder of a business visa may not conduct work other than work related to the business in respect of which the visa has been issued.*

- *In terms of section 15(3) of the Immigration Act, as amended, the Director-General may reduce or waive the financial or capital contribution for businesses which are prescribed to be in the national interest, or when so requested by the Department of Trade and Industry (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Capitalisation_reduction_or_waiver.pdf). Applicants should contact the Department of Trade and Industry directly to enquire about obtaining such capitalisation reduction or waiver: vrecom@thedti.gov.za.*

- *The holder of a business visa shall submit proof to the satisfaction of the Director-General of the Department of Home Affairs that he or she has invested the prescribed financial or capital contribution in such business within twenty-four (24) months of the issuance of the visa, and within every two (2) years thereafter.*

- *A business visa may be issued to a foreigner for more than one entry if multiple entries into the Republic of South Africa by that foreigner over a period of time are necessary for that foreigner to conduct the business in question effectively.*

- *Investors may obtain further information and guidance about the dynamics and principles involved in the South African business environment by contacting the Investment Promotion and Facilitation of the Department of Trade and Industry (**DTI**): http://www.thedti.gov.za/trade_investment/how_todo_business_insa.jsp. Investors in Germany may also obtain further information and guidance from the Embassy's Marketing Officer, Hans Schmeding (Tel.: 030 22073 0; Email: berlin.economic@dirco.gov.za).*

- *The spouse and dependent children accompanying the main applicant may be issued with a visitor's visa (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Visitors_Permit.doc); however, dependent children of school-going age accompanying the main applicant must be issued with study visas (see http://www.suedafrika.org/downloads/Study_Permit.doc).*

- ***Status / progress reports are not provided during the above-mentioned processing period**. Furthermore, no 'express service' for processing visa applications is available – complete applications are adjudicated on a First-In-First-Out basis.*

- ***Visa applications which are not complete shall not be taken in to be processed.** It is therefore the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that his or her visa application is complete as per the checklist.*

- *In the case of inconsistencies and / or incomplete information, our office reserves the right to request the applicant to submit additional documentation to substantiate the visa application.*

- *Documentation that accompanies the visa application shall be original or copies authenticated by the issuing authority of the country of origin and where necessary, translated into English and certified as a correct translation by a sworn translator (beeidigter Übersetzer) at the expense of the applicant.*

- *A visa issued at a foreign mission of the Republic of South Africa shall be affixed to the passport of the applicant and shall only be valid if an entry stamp has been affixed thereto at the port of entry and the date of such entry stamp shall be the effective date.*